Taking the title of Julian Barnes' postmodern novel as the title for this course, we will spend our term together reading and analyzing British novels of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Alongside these novels, we will learn the major concepts associated with fiction. By the end of this course, you will be knowledgeable about the major literary movements of the British novel and how it relies on particular effects such as point of view, plot, story, narration, action, and others.

“Expansion. That is the idea the novelist must cling to. Not completion. Not rounding off, but opening out.”

-E.M. Forster
Aspects of the Novel

Required Texts

Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness (HoD), Norton (1900)

Virginia Woolf, Between the Acts (BA), Harcourt (1941)


Zadie Smith, White Teeth (WT), Vintage (2001)

Assignments:

Keyword Essay: 15%
Midterm Exam: 20%
Close Reading Essay: 20%
Reading Quizzes: 10%
Blog: 15%
Final Exam: 20%

Expectations:
We are all adults. Please don't make me treat you like a child.

Please come to class having read the material and having prepared to discuss.

I grade fairly but firmly. If you want good marks, meet with me in advance of your projects.

I am happy to meet outside office hours if needed. I enjoy working with students so feel free to ask for help.

I have a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism (including self-plagiarism). If you are uncertain as to what this constitutes, come speak with me.
The Department's assessment procedure for the Undergraduate English Major is built around six desired learning outcomes:

1) read literary and cultural texts with discernment and comprehension and with an understanding of their conventions;

2) draw on relevant cultural and/or historical information to situate texts within their cultural, political, and historical contexts;

3) perform critical, formal analyses of literary, cinematic, and other cultural texts;

4) write focused, analytical essays in clear, grammatical prose;

5) employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments;

6) employ primary and/or secondary sources, with proper acknowledgment and citation, as they contribute to a critical essay's thesis.

Reading Schedule

**Week 1**
Monday: Introductions, Syllabus
Wednesday: HoD 3-31
Friday: HoD 31-54

**Week 2**
Monday: HoD 54-77
Wednesday: BA 3-65
Friday: BA 65-96

**Week 3**
Monday: BA 96-125, NO CLASS, Martin Luther King Day
Wednesday: BA 125-173
Friday: BA 173-219
Week 4
Monday: EE 3-58
Wednesday: EE 58-107
Friday: EE 108-157, Keyword Essay DUE

Week 5
Monday: EE 157-212
Wednesday: EE 212-275
Friday: Midterm Exam

Week 6
Monday: WT 3-69
Wednesday: WT 69-133
Friday: WT 135-201

Week 7
Monday: WT 203-256
Wednesday: WT 257-314
Friday: WT 315-385

Week 8
Monday: WT 385-405
Wednesday: WT 407-448
Friday: HT 3-69

Week 9
Monday: HT 69-113
Wednesday: HT 113-177
Friday: HT 177-231

Week 10
Monday: HT 232-273
Wednesday: HT 273-329
Friday: Wrapping up and Review for Final Exam

Week 11
Monday: NO CLASS, Close-reading Essay DUE
Wednesday: FINAL EXAM, 10:15 a.m., location TBD